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National Breast Cancer Coalition Honors Senator Chafee *Senator's Steadfast Commitment and Leadership Role Cited*

Washington, D.C.— The National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC), a grassroots advocacy group of 600 organizations and more than 70,000 individuals, will honor Senator Lincoln Chafee on May 4th at NBCC's Congressional Awards reception on Capitol Hill. Senator Chafee is being recognized for his outstanding and effective leadership in the fight against breast cancer.

Breast cancer activists in Washington for the 12th Annual Advocacy Conference put on by NBCC and its sister organization, the National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund, will attend the reception to thank Senator Chafee for his efforts.

"Senator Chafee has proven to be a valuable friend to women fighting breast cancer," said Fran Visco, president of NBCC. "We commend him for his leadership role on the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act—and for his support of other important breast cancer legislation."

"It is a great pleasure for me to be recognized by the Coalition," Chafee said. "For many years, scientists have researched the genetic variations that can lead to breast cancer, but the environmental causes have largely been ignored. The question we need to answer is: what environmental factors may trigger the onset of breast cancer. Once these are determined, we might one day be able to provide women with clear information about these factors to help them avoid them."

Chafee also noted the importance of congressional action. "The raised awareness of the causes and effects of breast cancer will allow Congress to contribute to the fight against the disease; to clear up any misconceptions; and to arm women with the scientific data they need to stay healthy and cancer-free."

Other members of Congress to be honored by NBCC at the May 4 reception include Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, Sen. Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, Rep. Judy Biggert of Illinois, Rep. Thomas M. Davis III of Virginia, Rep. Jim McGovern of Massachusetts, and Rep. Sue Myrick of North Carolina. The following members of Congress will be inducted into NBCC's Hall of Fame in recognition of their invaluable legislative efforts throughout their years in Congress: Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Sen. Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont,

Sen. Olympia J. Snowe of Maine, Rep. Anna D. Eshoo of California and Rep. Nita M. Lowey of New York.

The National Breast Cancer Coalition is a grassroots organization dedicated to ending breast cancer through the power of action and advocacy. The Coalition's main goals are to increase federal funding for breast cancer research and collaborate with the scientific community to implement new models of research; improve access to high quality health care and breast cancer clinical trials for all women; and expand the influence of breast cancer advocates in all aspects of the breast cancer decision making process. Additional information about NBCC can be found at www.stopbreastcancer.org.

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